

A REPORT FROM
THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION

“Hard Lessons is a wide-ranging examination of U.S. reconstruction efforts in Iraq that presents well-considered lessons for today and for future such endeavors. It provides a thorough analysis of the innumerable challenges the mission in Iraq has faced ... It is a ‘must read’ for those seeking to understand what transpired in Iraq since its liberation in 2003 and what we might learn from helping the Iraqis establish a new state in an ancient land.”

General David Petraeus,
Commander, Multi-National Force-Iraq (February 2007-September 2008);
Commander, U.S. Central Command (October 2008-present)

“This comprehensive look at U.S. reconstruction efforts in Iraq contains thoughtful lessons learned that the Congress and the Administration should consider. The book represents an extraordinary effort and provides a broad review of reconstruction, integrating many aspects of the fundamental challenges facing the U.S. in Iraq today.”

Ambassador Ryan Crocker,
U.S. Ambassador to Iraq (March 2007-present)

*“As the employment of ‘soft’ power increasingly assumes significance in military operations, *Hard Lessons* offers valuable insights for the integrated civilian-military team. The SIGIR’s hands-on, independent oversight amidst Iraq’s complex environment continues to enhance our stewardship of national resources to ensure that the United States can assist Iraqi leaders to complete the critical transitions essential to the creation of a secure and stable state and ally. It will provide lessons that must be applied to future operations and doctrine for years to come.”*

General Raymond Odierno,
Commander, Multi-National Force-Iraq (September 2008-present)

*“During my time as Ambassador to Iraq, I looked to SIGIR to provide me with real-time reconstruction reporting that gave me insight into the complex program under my charge. *Hard Lessons* is an important and timely study and should be required reading to inform all future U.S. efforts to conduct overseas contingency relief and reconstruction operations in conflict and post-conflict situations.”*

Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad,
U.S. Ambassador to Iraq (June 2005-March 2007);
U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations (April 2007-present)

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